

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9316

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USUN NEW YORK 1043

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7032

TEGUCIGALPA FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, US, MX

SUBJECT: PRI PARTICIPATION IN RECENT ATTACKS ON THE US ALLEGING
COLONIALIST CONTROL OF PUERTO RICO

REF: A)MEXICO 6862; B) MEXICO 6911

1. REFTEL (B) REPORTED ATTACKS MADE AGAINST US BY REPRESENTATIVES
OF FIVE MEXICAN POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING FIDEL HERRERA BELTRAN,
A RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE RULING PRI, WHICH CHARGED THE US
WITH "COLONIALIST" AND "FASCIST" OPPRESSION IN ITS RELATIONS
WITH PUERTO RICO. ONE PARTICIPANT (A PUERTO RICAN) ALSO
STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN PROMISED BY PRI PRESIDENT REYES
HEROLES THAT THE PRI WOULD SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO PUERTO RICO
SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN HAVANA SEPTEMBER 3.

2. ON AUGUST 7, HERRERA TELEPHONED AN EMBOFF CONTACT TO
THANK HIM FOR A COPY OF AN ARTICLE ON PUERTO RICO BY
ANGEL DE PABLOS AND TO EXPLAIN THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED
IN THE AUGUST 3 RALLY AT THE INVITATION OF PERSONAL
FRIENDS IN THE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY. HE WENT ON
TO CLAIM THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD DISCUSSED HIS PARTICIPATION
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WITH PRI PRESIDENT JESUS REYES HEROLES, HE DID NOT RPT NOT

PARTICIPATE OR SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE PRI OR CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES BUT ONLY FOR HIMSELF. OTHER PRI CONTACTS CONFIRM OUR IMPRESSION HERRERA ACTED PRIMARILY ON HIS OWN.

3. HERRERA'S DISCLAIMER NOTWITHSTANDING, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO GOM THAT PUERTO RICAN QUESTION IF NOT ONE WE TAKE LIGHTLY AND EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT HERRERA'S ACTION DID NOT REPRESENT GOM VIEWS. WHILE THE PRI IS NOT, STRICTLY SPEAKING, THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO, THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO IN THE PUBLIC MIND--BOTH HERE AND ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA--IS CLOSE.

4. WITHOUT EXAGGERATING ITS IMPORTANCE, THEREFORE, CALLING THE MATTER TO THECNOM'S ATTENTION MIGHT BE VERY USEFUL JUST NOW: IT MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, DISCOURAGE PRI FROM ACTUALLY NAMING AND SENDING REPRESENTATIVE TO HAVANA CONFERENCE (IF IN FACT IT IS CONSIDERING DOING SO). WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE A PUBLIC DEBATE BETWEEN OURSELVES AND PRI OFFICIALS IS CALLED FOR (ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DISTRIBUTED A VERY USEFUL ARTICLE BY A PUERTO RICAN AUTHOR, ANGEL DE PABLOS, TO MEXICAN EDITORS AND POLITICAL WRITERS VIA USIS). WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER? THAT WHEN OCCASION ARISES:
A. DEPARTMENT INFORMALLY EXPRESS SURPRISE TO AMB. DE OLLOQUI THAT PRI OFFICIAL HAD LENT HIS PRESTIGE TO THIS EVENT AND INQUIRED TO WHAT EXTENT HIS VIEWS REFLECT TRENDS IN GOM THINKING; AND
B. EMBASSY MAKE SIMILAR INFORMAL APPROACH TO FOREIGN SECRETARIAT, PROVIDING BASIC FACTS AND FIGURES AS APPROPRIATE ON PUERTO RICO'S STATUS AND SELF-DETERMINATION AS WELL AS ANY INFO AVAILABLE ON UPCOMING HAVANA MEETING AND ITS ORGANIZERS.

5. EMBASSY WILL AWAIT DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS WITH REGARD TO ABOVE PROPOSALS OR ANY OTHER REPRESENTATIONS DEEMED APPROPRIATE. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SUCH BACKGROUND INFORMATION AS WILL BE NECESSARY AND USEFUL IN MAKING OUR VIEWS KNOWN.
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